

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

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Ernie Greenwood



'Police treat all blacks like villains'

Two weeks after the police released highly misleading statistics which were supposed to show that "muggings" by black people on white were on the increase, a black Hackney woman told a public meeting about the attack on her and her daughters - by the police.

Mrs Jennifer Knight was badly beaten up by the police when she was arrested following a disturbance at her home last November. She is still having hospital treatment for a shoulder injury. She was charged with actual bodily harm, and her case comes up soon at Snaresbrook Crown Court (no date fixed yet).

Other speakers at the meeting stressed how the attack on the Knights had to be seen in the context of a campaign to criminalise the black community.

The way in which the police released the London crime statistics shows how the police are fighting this campaign. In fact a detailed analysis of the figures show that the police were highly selective: the real figure for street robberies was less than 6,000, not nearly 19,000. Robberies and other violent thefts account for only 3% of the crimes committed in London. And the evidence that black people commit more than their fair share of street crime is based on what the victims say, rather than analysis of the race of people caught and convicted.

DAWN START AT LEA VIEW

The tenants of Lea View House in Upper Clapton welcomed the Council Direct Labour Organisation onto their estate with a breakfast party on Monday 29 March. The DLO was starting work on a modernisation programme for the pre-war estate. The programme has been devised in a remarkable exercise in consultation between the Council, the tenants and the architects and was finally given Government approval just before Christmas.

Only a year ago, the whole programme was in danger of being scrapped but a march on the Town Hall, and the packing of the Council chamber with tenants while the Housing Development Committee was deliberating forced the Council to think again.

The £6 million project is to be carried out on a Rolling Programme, allowing major design alterations to take place while preventing the dispersal of the existing community. Individual tenants have been allowed full choice over the customisation of their dwellings.

Bacon rolls

Over tea and bacon rolls provided by the tenants association, HPP spoke to a number of the tenants who have been involved in the exercise.

"It was definitely the march on the Town Hall last year that gave us the confidence," said Miriam Lewis. "We went from strength to strength after that."

Each week there have been planning meetings on the estate, where all the details of the programme have been discussed. "The good thing that we have discovered is that we can meet councillors

and architects on equal terms." HPP was told.

Thus a remarkable programme which, for a change, seems to reflect the needs of tenants rather than architects fancy ideas, has been devised. The blocks will be turned back to front, with the ground floor doors facing out to the street (and on one side the park) rather than inwards to the courtyard. Maisonettes for families with children will all be built on the ground floor. Lifts will be installed. There will be special sheltered accommodation for the elderly and handicapped. There will be full heating and experimental solar energy collectors for hot water - and, perhaps most significantly, relining work to prevent condensation, the council tenants' worse problem.

All the work is being carried out by the Council's own Direct Labour Organisation which pleases the Council greatly. The Tory Government is doing its best to get rid of DLOs across the country, and this is a chance for Hackney to prove that its DLO can do better work than builders in the private sector.

The programme has become regarded as a pioneer in co-operation. The tenants have been to a special conference in Liverpool as an example of how tenants, the Council and architects can all work together.

"Most people want to stay on the estate now," says Christine Anderson. "Before the scheme was proposed, most wanted to leave." That's probably the best indication of whether the programme will be a success.



Fare Fight campaigns on!

The first round may have been lost, but the fight continues. London Transport fares did go up on 21 March, in spite of massive public support for keeping the fares fair, and the efforts of the Hackney Fare Fight campaign.

The strike on Wednesday, 10 March was totally successful - not a bus or tube train moved all day - and the chaos on the BR trains demonstrated all too vividly how appalling the effects of the expected breakdown in LT services will be. Would-be passengers had to give up and go home, having failed after an hour's struggle to get onto any of the jam-packed trains. Passengers at all Hackney's BR stations were leafleted and hundreds of signatures were collected.

A mass lobby by several thousand people of MPs the

next day was followed on the Saturday by a GLC rally. Hackney's contingent, almost a carnival turnout with its decorated bus and procession of cars behind, left the town hall in the morning for a tour of the main shopping centres. Billowing yellow balloons, car horns sounding and an exuberant trumpeter stopped shoppers in their tracks. After winding its way round Hackney, the procession joined up with Camden's bus. Together they amazed shoppers in Oxford Street and Piccadilly with outriders on bikes handing out leaflets, then went on to the London-wide rally at County Hall, which was addressed by Ken Livingstone.

Can't pay? Won't pay!

Hackney's Fare Fight group decided to join up with the Can't pay? Won't pay campaign

Continued on page 8

FINAL ACTS

Democracy is a funny thing. It hardly seems four years since the last round of Council elections. Time certainly flies when you've been having fun and it's been a laugh a minute behind the Council's green doors since good old 1978.

Before I give you my end of session report, I shall once more baffle you with statistics. Of the 60 Labour candidates for the elections in May, 34 are sitting councillors. Of the 26 newcomers, only two could be regarded as out-and-out right-wingers, or potential supporters of the Old Guard. This compares with the situation immediately after the 1978 election when 19 of the 59 Labour candidates elected were newcomers. Sixteen of these 19 joined with some left-wingers already sitting to form a Broad Left group which collapsed some 18 months later in bitter acrimony. Being always in a minority it became an easy target for the jibes of the Ottolanguist tendency, the hard Old Guard.

What we have now is that the majority of the Labour group elected next month will regard themselves as Broad (or New) Left-wingers. And, as I told you last month, even if Labour lose a few wards to the SDP or Liberals, the relative proportions are not likely to be changed significantly. The control of the group - and the Council - could thus be in different hands. Johnny Kotz has been rapidly gaining points for what I believe you young people call "street credibility". He has grown a beard and been arrested for being illegally in charge of a zebra crossing. These could be regarded as the last acts of a doomed man.

RESIGNED

My view is, however, more charitable. He is quietly resigned to losing the leadership after May. He can do his sums as well as anybody, and can see that his core of

support has been drastically pruned.

That is not to say that he will be trying like hell to get re-elected because, for sure, he will. He knows that there is a certain reluctance to put up a candidate against him. There are even those who say that he could still be the leader, with a new team of dynamic committee chairs below him. On the other hand, there are probably more of those who say that there has to be a complete sweep-out, with a new style of leadership. The situation is genuinely unclear, and I will not bore you with any more idle speculation.

The big change of the last four years is what has caused the final demise of the Hackney Old Guard, and that is the change in the local Labour Party itself. I am happy to say that this has not coincided with any growth in the local branch of the Social Diseases Party. There have been very few defections to the Limehouse claret-swillers in Hackney, and their council candidates list will be composed almost entirely of people with virtually no political experience whatsoever. The SDP may win one or two London boroughs in May, but it seems as though they are hardly going to try in Hackney.

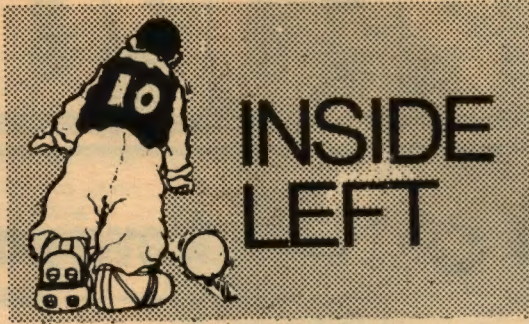
POWER

The Labour Party has really changed because of the gentrification of Hackney. The power base of the Old Guard was the ward Labour Party built around a massive Council estate with a Tenants Association firmly under the ward control. In most wards now, the owner occupiers are in charge, and they have brought a different dimension to the way in which local politics are determined. So we have a lot of talk about "openness" and "letting the people decide" and "reporting back" and "consultation".

We have also seen an unprecedented degree of activity around the contents of the Labour manifesto for the Council elections. There have been drafts galore and, even, a conference where ordinary voters were invited to have their say.

The unfortunate thing is that not many ordinary voters knew about, let alone bothered to attend, this conference. Could it be that the ordinary voter doesn't really care about the contents of the Labour manifesto? It may be sacrilege to say so, but the reality is that only one-third of the electorate will probably bother to vote.

This either shows sophisticated political reasoning, because people know that the excesses of Thatcherism will make virtually any manifesto unworkable - or it shows even more sophisticated anarchistic tendencies amongst the electorate: whoever you vote for, the Council gets in. And who am I to disagree?



TENANTS ANGRY OVER TRANSFER

Local councillors got an angry reception at a tenants' meeting last month as residents expressed their concern over Hackney Council's plans to take over the management of their estate. GLC councillor Gerry Ross and Hackney Housing Chairperson Charles Cable had been invited by Northwold Estate Tenants' Association to discuss the transfer of 17,000 GLC properties to the local borough, and found that tenants were just as dissatisfied with their new landlords as they had been with their old ones.

The transfer of GLC housing stock to the borough council had been implemented by the Tory Government in an attempt to reduce the control of County Hall. Despite strong resistance to this move, Hackney Council was forced to accept the decision and the handover was finally carried out at the beginning of April.

GLC residents are understandably concerned about the type of service they can expect when Hackney Council take over. Although many of the GLC estates look as if they have not been improved since they were built over 50 years ago, Hackney Council's record of maintaining and improving their own properties is not exactly unblemished. GLC tenants are also angry that they are paying higher rents than residents of the borough council, yet their estates are older and in greater need of repair.

These feelings were expressed by the people who packed into the meeting at the Northwold Estate Community Hall. When tenants asked whether repairs promised by the GLC would be carried out by Hackney Council, councillor Cable replied that although major repairs to homes would continue, the council had adopted the policy that minor repairs inside the home should be taken on by the tenants themselves. He explained that this was to "cut down costs" and added that "it wouldn't be unreasonable for tenants to change their own taps". It was also understood that the GLC's special repair scheme for the disabled and single parent families would not be taken over by the council.

One of the main areas of concern to the tenants on Northwold Estate was that of

security on the estate. Many flats have been broken into and vandalised recently and the lack of lighting on the estate clearly doesn't improve the situation. Yet, despite promises that modernisation plans would go ahead, there was no assurance as to when floodlights would be installed around the estate. Tenants were also angered when they were told that the Council would not employ full-time wardens for the 34 single flats occupied by pensioners. Councillor Cable asked how many people would be prepared to pay an extra £1 a week to pay for these wardens. Unfortunately, he had forgotten that the tenants had already been made to pay an extra £1 a week rent.

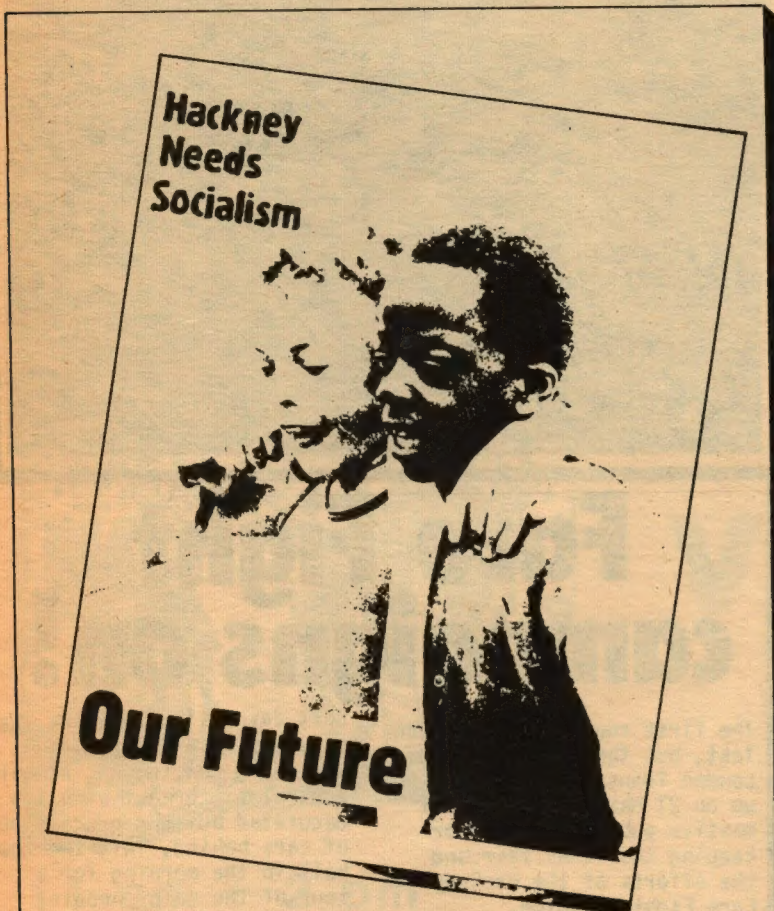
The recent increase in GLC rents also caused a storm of protest, especially as GLC tenants still pay on average £2.50 a week more than borough council tenants, and councillor Gerry Ross was criticised for supporting the £1 a week rise. He argued that County Hall had been forced to make this decision by the government and, drawing parallels with the London Transport Fares Fair policy, pointed out that if they had refused to raise rents the Courts would have forced a much higher increase on tenants. He claimed he didn't want to force the tenants into a "propaganda campaign" over rents as they may be unwilling to take this action. Obviously he doesn't mind forcing them to pay higher rents.

When the meeting ended many tenants felt that their questions had not been answered, and tenants' representatives from this and other estates have complained that the issues involved in the transfer of GLC estates have been discussed too little, too late. Even though the GLC have agreed to offer Hackney Council £45 million to spend on major repairs over the next ten years, there has been no consultation with tenants' bodies as to how the money will be spent and what say tenants will have over the running of their estates. With the local elections coming up in May, perhaps some councillors are hoping these issues will not be raised too often.



Councillors Cable and Ross inspecting a vandalised door on Northwold Estate. Pic: Northwold & Tower Gardens Tenants Assocn.

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Our Future

20p

Hackney has never been a bed of roses but today we're in real trouble. People are desperate for a way forward. Many, however, are disillusioned even cynical, about politics and the established parties. But by acting together people can win change for the better. Organising around the issues that concern them Hackney people have won some important advances in recent years — nurseries, better wages, improvements on estates, for example. In this pamphlet we argue that the way forward is through new democratic and socialist politics. This will pave the way to the achievement of a just, socialist society.

Hackney Communist Party, 126 Amhurst Road, London E8.

TWENTY YEARS ROT

It is now twenty years since the Inner London Education Authority made a compulsory purchase of a factory and some houses in the Durrington Road area. Twenty years in which nothing has happened and, in consequence, twenty years of neglect and decay for the area.

The purchase was made so that the local primary school could be extended to cope with an expected boom in the birth-rate. The boom never happened and the school has never been extended. The properties have fallen gradually into disrepair and the residents were left to grow old in increasing squalor.

Five years ago some of the houses were passed over to short life housing groups and made fit to live in. Others became empty and were vandalised by the GLC. Because the area looks so run down, it has been used by neighbouring areas as a general dumping ground. Unwanted furniture, cars and other rubbish all contribute to making the area a health hazard, dangerous to those who live there - many of them old and frail - and to the children who go to the local school.

Because the derelict properties are not boarded up properly, children play in them and get into trouble.

Although tenants have complained time and again over the years about the slum conditions in which they have to live - the leaking roofs, damp

walls, faulty gutters, outside toilets and ill-fitting windows - any response has only come after a long delay, when the problem has got much worse and the measures taken serve only as a stopgap rather than cure.

Tenants action

ILEA has now, at length, decided to release all but one of the houses from the demolition order. These houses are therefore no longer short-term housing but none of the authorities involved want to accept responsibility for the whole block. Seven months ago the tenants formed themselves into a housing cooperative, on the advice of the local GLC councillor, John Carr. They are hoping that they could fight the planning blight which is threatening their community.

So far the group has acted as a pressure group to improve some of the problems and force the authorities to live up to their responsibilities.

Not only is the block a necessary part of the local housing stock, but an active community is involved. The only way, the group considers, to end the situation is to go for full habitation. It will not, after all, be long before the houses will be useless for anything but demolition.

Considering that money is not available to replace public housing, and when the cost of rent and rates lost yearly by these empty properties, should there really be any more excuses



Bottom of the class

Standards in Hackney's primary schools are the lowest in Inner London. A recent report from the Hackney branch of the Socialist Educational Association has rejected the official ILEA view that this is caused by the poor social conditions in the borough. The report argues that ILEA has not put enough resources into Hackney.

Hackney's social problems are not unique: Tower Hamlets scores almost as badly on the scales of social factors (such as free meals, large or one-parent families, second language, attendance, car ownership) and both are not far behind Islington. Both these boroughs score much better in the exam results taken by children immediately before they transfer to

secondary school.

The Hackney SEA recommend that a number of measures be taken to improve primary school standards. These include:

1. Improvement of the pupil-teacher ratio. To combat the worst standards, Hackney needs the best ratio of teachers to pupils. In fact, it ranks about halfway down the list.
2. Combatting the high teacher turnover. Many teachers do not, in fact, live in the borough. Positive encouragement needs to be given to them to live here.
3. Giving Hackney its share of specialist centres. There are 45 specialist centres in the whole of ILEA - yet there are none in Hackney. As Hackney has the worst records for both English and Maths, at

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least one of the six English centres and the four Maths centres should be in the borough.

4. Strengthen curriculum support teams. These teams are the only extra input to Hackney since the last protest about standards. They are not strong enough and need greater resources.

5. Improve teacher expertise and share ideas and practices within and between schools.

There will be a public meeting to discuss the issues raised in this report on Tuesday 6 April at 8pm, in the Labour and Trades Hall, 96 Dalston Lane, E8.

Copies of the full report, *BOTTOM OF THE CLASS*, are available from Hackney SEA, 83 Eleanor Road, E8.

Race check reject

The City and Hackney Area Health Authority has voted to oppose strongly the institution of race checks on patients attending local hospitals for treatment. The scheme, which is planned to start on 1 October, will mean that patients will have their passports checked, if the staff think that they might not be eligible for NHS treatment free.

The vote at the AHA meeting was proposed by Hackney's representative Steve Scott, and was carried by nine votes to nil. Steve Scott said that the checks would be socially divisive and have serious consequences for race relations in a multi-racial area like Hackney. Quite apart from this, the money collected would be paltry compared with the cost of administration.

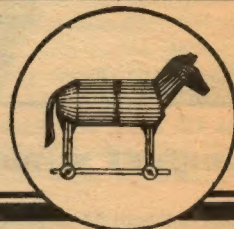
The motion was seconded by Mrs Halps, a Newham representative and Brian Connolly from the TGWU. The public



gallery was full and following several interruptions, and despite resistance from the Chairperson, standing orders were suspended for five minutes to allow Alec Biswas to address the meeting.

This is only the first round because the outgoing AHA cannot bind the new District Health Authority which takes over responsibility on 1 April. So the matter will need to be raised again with the DHA as soon as it takes office.

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These designs from "Biff" were originally published as postcards and T-shirts, now they are available as posters for the first time.



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MEETING TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Police raise race tension

The racial violence which broke out in the Holly Street area on a Friday night at the end of March was only the latest of a series of incidents which show the rising tensions in Hackney, says Hackney CRE Secretary, Ian Haig.

Two black women were stabbed and seriously injured outside a disco at Holly Street Community Centre. Friends in the disco chased two white youths to their nearby flat where the youths were eventually arrested by the police and charged with grievous bodily harm with intent to wound and assault. Inside the flat the police found an arsenal of weapons including an air rifle, knives an axe and a sabre. Later that evening, in an incident which may have been related, a group of black youths attacked some white boy scouts and stabbed one of them.

"It's a hair-trigger situation" Haig says and partly blames the police. By presenting the recent crime statistics

in a partial and racist manner, he says, "the police have deliberately sought to create in the public mind the conclusion that black people are criminals." HCRE thinks that the police have set out to undermine Lord Scarman's modest proposals for changes in policing by whipping up public support for hard policing methods. Given the existing tensions in Hackney, with 23 per cent unemployment, the effect of pointing the finger at black people is to increase the risk of racial conflict and violence.

HCRE has called a meeting of all local community groups on the 5th April at Stoke Newington Town Hall (8.00 pm) to decide what should be done about the police 'law and order' campaign. Groups not only have to decide how to respond to this propaganda campaign but whether to co-operate in a number of 'let's work together' initiatives coming from the police and from the Government.

The Home Office has written to Hackney Council asking it

to set up a new Borough-Police liaison committee, bringing in local community groups as Scarman recommended. Hackney already has a liaison committee but it only has councillors and senior police officers on it and meets irregularly and in private. The Home Office wants the Borough to work out with the police who should be on this new committee and suggests it might include: "local community groups (including ethnic minority groups as well as the local community relations council...), churches, trades groups and individuals who may already act as an informal channel between the police and the community." But before agreeing to set up such a committee the Borough has written to community groups asking what they think.

HCRE is sceptical. It will only consider participating if the meetings are public, involve a wide range of community interests and the committee is seen as a definite move towards genuine accountability of

the police to the public. But the Home Office letter to the Borough makes it quite clear that the committees are not to make the police accountable but for 'consultation'. It says the police will stay in control of operational decisions and the Home Secretary will remain the Police Authority for the Metropolitan Police. (Outside London the police are accountable to a Police Authority made up of local councillors and magistrates who appoint the senior officers and can demand reports about their policing operations and methods).

Haig thinks the Home Secretary sees these new liaison committees as "lightening conductors to defuse demands for real accountability" and wants the meeting on the 5th to discuss whether local groups should cooperate. In other parts of London a number of independent police monitoring campaigning groups have sprung up during the past year and many of these have decided to have nothing

to do with liaising with the police. Hackney groups could follow suit or decide to participate in order to press for changes in policing. But the independent police campaigns, such as the Community Alliance for Police Accountability in Tower Hamlets (CAPA) and Lambeth Police Monitoring Group say people have tried time and time again to talk to the police but it makes no difference and there is no point in trying again.

The same kind of arguments apply to involvement in police training. The Borough has agreed to help train officers on the Senior Command Course at Bramshill Police College who are coming to Hackney from 13th to 16th April to "look at inner city problems and examine the degree of cooperation between the police and social agencies" and "make senior police managers more sensitive to the political dimension." HCRE has refused to participate in the course and to have police constables in its office for 'race awareness' training. But it does have to decide whether to participate in any training schemes at all - the argument in favour being the importance of changing police officers' attitudes to black people.

One alternative initiative to liaison with the police is planned by a group of black people who have been meeting over the past few weeks to discuss whether to set up an independent police campaign group in Hackney to monitor what the police are doing and counter demands for repressive policing methods. They believe that consultation with the police is a waste of time and the meeting on the 5th may well agree.



Ernie Greenwood

Transport scheme for local groups

Hackney Community Transport, a new scheme to provide local groups with transport, is getting into gear. It now has a mini-bus and will be acquiring a van shortly.

HCT has been set up to provide facilities for groups to help them solve their transport problems. Starting with two vehicles, it will expand if there is a need to buy a range of vehicles for

different uses. These vehicles will be available for hire by local groups for outings and so on. HCT also hopes that those groups which have vehicles will be persuaded to join in and loan their own vehicles out to other groups in need.

The first van purchased is a 12-seater mini-bus, painted a high-visibility yellow. The next one now on order is a van

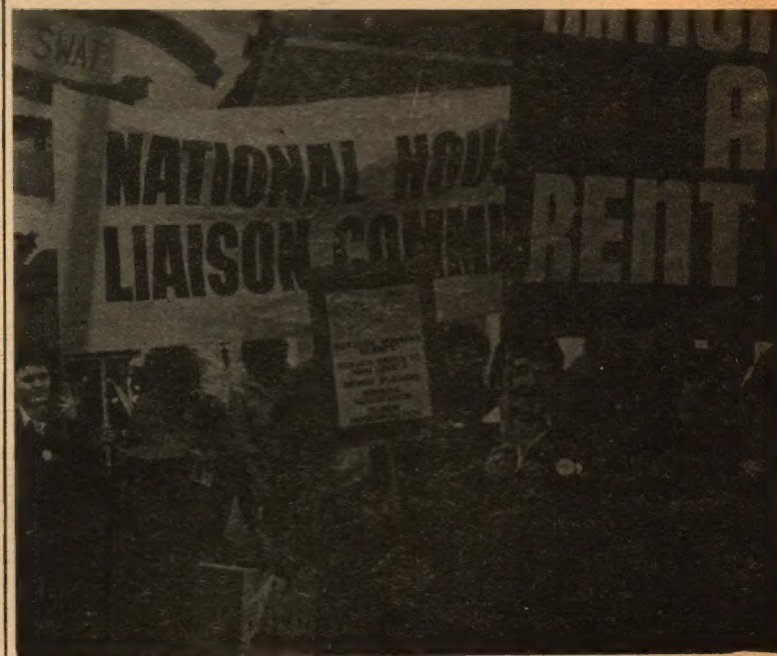
to seat 17 people. It is currently being converted so that some of the seating can be removed to allow space for three wheelchairs and seven seats.

Funding

An application has been made for funds under the Partnership Scheme. This would provide enough money for a co-ordinator an administrator and premises. An ad-hoc committee is running the scheme until the results of the application are known.

The committee would like to hear from any group that is interested in the scheme. Ideas for future developments would be welcomed - suggestions so far have included a vehicle repair workshop, a variety of different vehicles and a door-to-door individual service.

Membership forms are being sent out to groups so that they can be kept in touch with developments and so that, when enough groups are affiliated, an executive committee can be elected. If your group is interested and would like to know more then contact Caroline Coles, 380 Old Street, London EC1. Telephone 729 4689.



Tenants march in Walsall

Tenants from Hackney carrying the lead banner which they made for the march in Walsall last month, organised by the National Campaign Against Rent Increases. The march was held in Walsall because 16,000 council tenants have been on rent freeze for fifty-one weeks and tenants came to show their solidarity from as far away as Scotland and South Wales.

Pic: Federation of Hackney Tenants' Associations

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WOMEN'S RIGHT TO WORK

SPECIAL NEEDS LAW CENTRE

Whenever unemployment is discussed in the newspapers or on TV, there is an unspoken assumption that only men are affected. However, women are hit even harder by unemployment. Already there are more women looking for jobs than men and women's jobs are disappearing at twice the rate of men's.

Tory ministers have made it plain that they think the right place for women is in the home. All the old stories about women working for pin money are being told again. One in three Hackney families is a one parent family - a woman is thus often the only breadwinner. It has been estimated that the number of families on social security would treble if women stopped working. How can women have any hope of independence, let alone equality, if they can't get jobs?

security

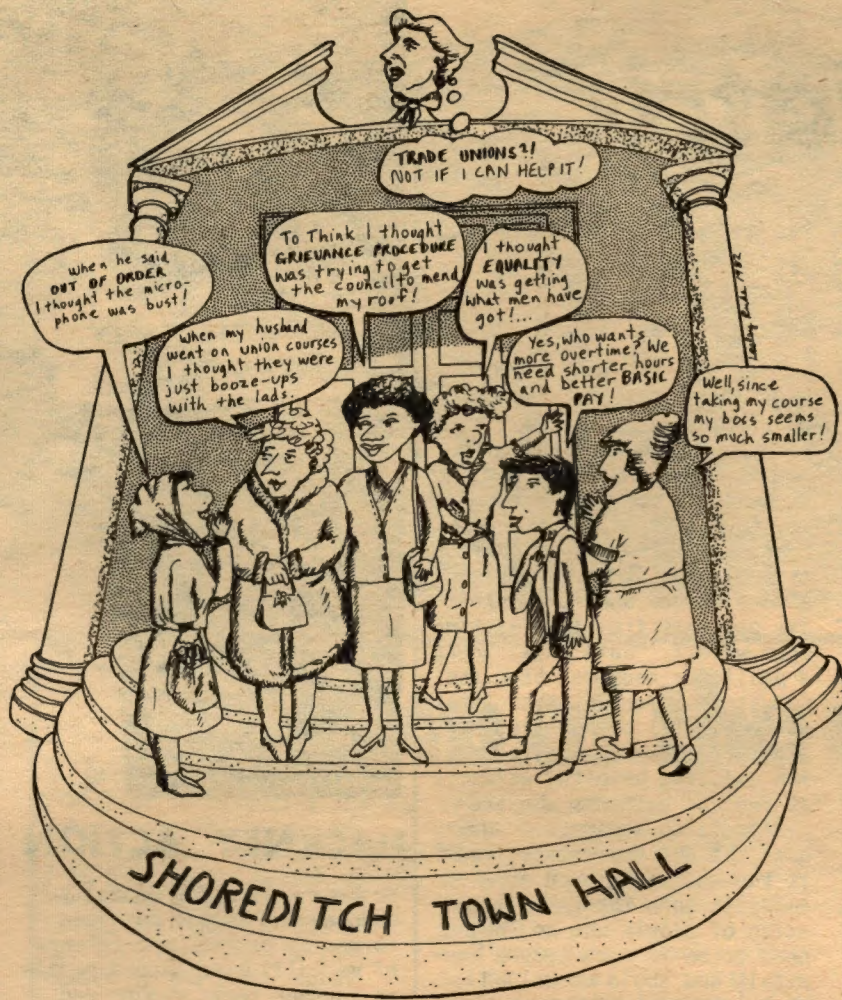
Most women workers in Hackney are in jobs with little security. Thousands work in sweatshops on a part time basis, or as home workers and another 4,000 work as part time contract cleaners - all of these can be sacked at any time. Jobs in hospitals, schools and council employment are a

bit more secure. But these are the very areas where the Government has been cutting expenditure. Unless Hackney Council and the ILEA fight, the Government's plans to make even more cuts will force them to sack thousands of women next year.

campaign

The Hackney Women's Right to Work Campaign is organising a local conference for April 24 at Clissold Park School, Clissold Rd, N16 from 10.30 to 4.30. Food and creche will be available, cost £1 waged and 50p unwaged. The conference will consider such issues as Job Redundancies - how to support local action, A Bill of Rights for Women, A register of unwaged women who do not sign on and How to build for the national demonstration and rally on June 5.

The Hackney Womens Right to Work Campaign needs women - and men - to help build the conference and national demo. They meet every Thursday from 8 to 9.30 at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. For further information ring Karen 533 1739, or Paul 254 6686.



Special Course for Women Trade Unionists in Hackney

New short courses are being run for women trade unionists. These courses are intended to help women to get better organised and make themselves heard, and to give them a chance to discuss union issues with other women trade unionists.

The courses, organised in the case of Hackney by the Hackney Trades Council Trade Union Support Unit and the TUC, are for women trade unionists only. New or inexperienced women stewards are particularly welcome, but more experienced women stewards who feel they could benefit from sharing their experiences with other women would also be welcome. Women union members who wish to become more involved in union work would also find the course helpful.

content

The course deals with the problems facing women at work and in the union; improving union organisation and being an effective union steward, which covers such subjects as work on handling grievances, raising issues at meetings and making reports.

payment

The TUC pays the fees. If you are a union steward, your employer has a legal duty to give you time off work with pay to attend union courses. If you are not a steward, your union may be able to negotiate paid release with your employer.

The courses are small and informal, with the emphasis on practical work in groups where those taking part can help each other rather than being "lectured at".

The next course is to be held at Shoreditch Town Hall, Old Street, London EC1 on 6-8 April. For more information on this and other courses in the future, contact Lucy de Groot at the Hackney Trades Council Trade Union Support Unit, 34 Dalston Lane, London E8. Telephone 249 8086.

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The Mary Seacole Project

Two part-time (10 hours each) female workers required for a new project for girls and young women in Hackney. Initially, the workers, with the support of a local management committee will be expected to establish contacts with local girls from a base one day per week, and to develop further links through detached work. In the long term it is hoped to establish a Hackney Girls and Women's Centre staffed by full time workers.

Experience with ethnic minorities and young single parents necessary. Successful applicants will be paid at JNC rates and will be seconded to the project from the Hackney AYO.

Further details from Jen Gibson : 254 2073. Applications to Hackney Area Youth Office, 138 Kingsland Road, London E2.

Closing date - Thursday, 8 April 1982.

A group of people in East London are working to set up a law centre to deal with problems associated with disability, including mental health work.

The centre will be based in the Hackney/Tower Hamlets/Newham area and will aim to have a marked impact on local council health and education authorities' administrative policy as well as taking up strictly legal issues.

The centre will adopt a radical approach to the work, starting from a view that people with disabilities are an oppressed group and should not be seen as unfortunate victims.

Resource centre for hospitals
In the mental health work, the centre will act as a resource centre for people in psychiatric and mental handicap hospitals and units. It will advise and assist clients in relation to discharge, treatment and therapy, and access to clothes and money and so on. It will also assist clients in finding appropriate housing or other support outside hospital.

The centre will also focus on making facilities of all types more accessible to people with disabilities. Case work with individuals will also help to show up which areas are of greatest need - particularly ways in which authorities might become more responsive to what clients need and more flexible in their approach.

The centre will be aiming, in whatever work it does, to take special account of the needs of particular groups: women, children, young people, black people and those from ethnic minority backgrounds. It is also expected to work closely with local groups and voluntary organisations, not just to learn from their experience but also to influence them to consider the needs of people with disabilities.

The steering group has drawn up proposals for the structure and work of the centre and is applying for funding. It is very keen to hear from other people who would like to become involved in setting up the centre. In particular they wish to hear from those with disabilities or relevant personal experience.

Contact: Carol Ackroyd, Camden Community Law Centre, 146 Kentish Town Road, London NW1. Telephone: 485 6672

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ACORN TENANTS' ASSOCIATION
OPEN MEETING
FOR ALL TENANTS
OF NEW ISLINGTON AND HACKNEY
HOUSING ASSOCIATION

to be held at the 'Meeting place' above the Crown & Castle pub, Dalston Junction at 8.00pm Wednesday 21 April 1982.

PLEASE COME ALONG IF YOU CAN



Office block for Stoke Newington?

Property developers are planning to build a multi-storey office block on one of the most important junctions of Stoke Newington High Street, Stamford Hill, Cazenove Road and Northwold Road, opposite Abney Park Cemetery. Preliminary proposals are for a six storey block, two storeys higher than the existing building and the surrounding houses.

The 'Stevens Stores' site has been unoccupied since Stevens closed in 1970, and since fire seriously damaged the empty building in 1980, Hackney Borough Council has been anxious to see the site re-developed. Financial constraints have prevented Borough officials from taking out a compulsory purchase order, however, and turning the site into a park is ruled out by planners.

Despite their interest in the re-development of the site, Hackney and GLC planning officers are anxious about some aspects of the outline proposals. There are fears that the building would reduce light to nearby Gibson Gardens, and objections have been received from local people to both the size and the appearance of the planned building. Planners are trying to persuade the proposers to modify their plans to take objections into account.

The developers, local estate agents, Philip and Phillips, claim that the site would not be appropriate for any use other than offices. They argue that the busy junction and empty shops in Stoke Newington High Street rule out shop usage. It would be too noisy, they say, and parking would be too restricted for housing use. They propose, therefore, to provide 18,000 square feet of office space in the hope of attracting City office users with cheap rents. They offer no guarantees that the offices will be filled or that jobs will be provided for local people. Nor, apparently, is there concern that the listed buildings being refurbished for office use at 189-191 Stoke Newington High St might result in a glut of office space in Stoke Newington.

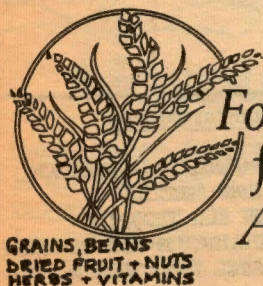
Local people, however, are calling for a public meeting to consider the proposals and Councillor Anthony Kendall has written to Hackney planning officers asking them to arrange a meeting once final plans have been submitted. Office-lovers need only sit back and let things happen. Anyone else interested in local participation in major development decisions should write to Councillor A Kendall, Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, supporting the call for a public meeting.

new psychiatric unit

The City and East London Area Health Authority has outlined proposals to provide a 12 bed purpose built and self contained Psychiatric Regional Secure Unit at the Hackney Hospital. Such units were recommended as a matter of urgency in the Butler Committee's Interim Report of April 1974 and special funds have been made available by the government specifically for such purposes, so we can anticipate such units as an established feature of the NHS everywhere in the near future. At a private meeting on March 25, the Area Health Authority held a question and answer session as part of the consultative process on the proposed secure unit which they refer to as a "Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit".

What then is a PICU, who will be admitted and why is it to be located at Hackney Hospital? The provisional plan envisages building the new unit above the existing psychiatric day hospital at Hackney Hospital as it was felt that this location would link in best with the existing psychiatric services in East London. Terry Northwood explained that the start of building work would depend on the outcome of the consultative process and would then take up to three years before opening. The AHA argues that a psychiatric intensive care unit is part of the mental health service just as intensive care units for physically ill people are essential parts of general hospitals. Patients would only be admitted after careful selection to ensure that they are not persistently dangerous and would have the potential to respond to treatment. Length of stay on the unit was not expected to exceed 18 months. Although the unit would be built so that it can be locked, the main form of security was seen as being provided by the high staffing levels that would exist. Admission to the unit would come from secure hospitals such as Broadmoor, prisons, existing open hospital wards and the community, subject to the above selection procedure.

ADVERTISEMENT



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ORIGINAL WHOLEFOOD STORE
Open Mon-Sat 9.00-6.00

3, Cazenove Rd, London, N.16

Off Stamford Hill
01 806-4138

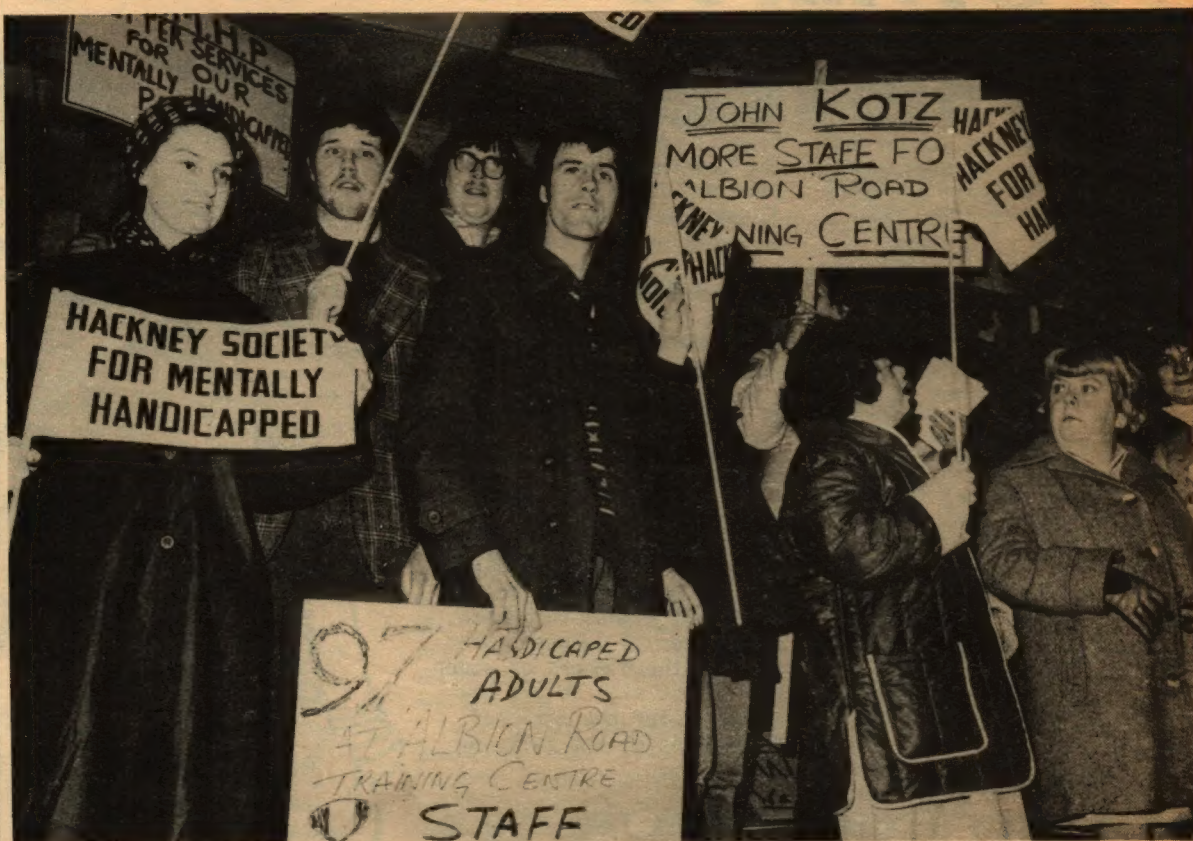
Such a unit can thus be seen as having a role to play in an integrated mental health service, but doubts and criticisms however exist. For instance is the unit a less secure provision for the further rehabilitation of patients from special hospitals, or a more secure one for disruptive patients from the existing open wards? "Safe until Sound" a publicity document from the AHA states bluntly that "Most patients will be admitted straight from the community or the existing hospital wards... it removes patients who are difficult to manage..." However the AHA representatives at the meeting placed great emphasis upon the rehabilitation of people who no longer need to be in more secure hospitals and could be helped back into their local communities. Questioned on this Dr Ruth Seifert a consultant psychiatrist at Hackney Hospital said that if patients entered the unit from the open wards it would be considered a failure as they were not intended as a dumping ground for disruptive patients, but that the safeguards here were their "own expertise and good intentions". The AHA's intentions may well be honourable, but in practice Larry Gostin of MIND feels that NHS hospitals may consider that they have "ample numbers of troublesome patients of their own" to fill beds in secure units.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

Regarding general safeguards, Andrew Roberts writing in the current edition of Lawletter feels that it is essential that these units should be open to public inspection as a means of ensuring that the patients are protected from the possibility of ill treatment. But given public participation and adequate safeguards the provision of a PICU in Hackney could improve the range of mental health services available in East London and offer opportunities for reintegrating patients who no longer need to be in more secure conditions back into their local community. However it is a sad reflection on Government policy that money is made available for new medium secure units while failing to find adequate funds for the community care of the mentally ill that has been promised since the 1959 Mental Health Act.

A Public Meeting on the new unit has been called for Monday 19 April at 7pm in Homerton Library, Homerton High Street, E9. The April 1982 Lawletter is available on Psychiatric Secure Hospitals for 25p from: Lawletter, 90 Fawcett Estate, Clapton Common, E5 9AX.

LOBBY OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 24 AT THE TOWN HALL.



PICTURE: NICK OAKES

HACKNEY ACTION FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE

Hackney Action for Mentally Handicapped People has been formed by parents and friends of mentally handicapped people to further their rights and improve understanding of their needs and problems.

HAMHP believe that a complete and properly organised service should be provided by the Council and the Health Service. This would require short-term residential care so that parents can have a break and proper daytime facilities for those beyond school age. Those in residential homes should ideally be within the borough so that those presently living far away could keep in

touch with friends and relatives in Hackney.

HAMHP have been lobbying the Council on the following points:

- Staffing levels have fallen; when will the Council start filling vacant posts?
- The new purpose built home in Lauriston Road is lying empty; when will it be opened?
- A community home in Malpas Road is threatened with closure despite staff and residents being happy there; what plans do the Council have for their future?

In order to further the understanding of Mental Handicap

and to remove the fear felt by those unfamiliar with it HAMHP will be producing a regular newsletter and making available speakers for meetings of local groups. Hackney Action for Mentally Handicapped People can be contacted c/o Joy Vollmer, City and Hackney Community Health Council, 210 Kingsland Road, E2 8EB. Tel 739 6308. HAMHP meet on the second Thursday of every month at The Huddleston Centre, St. James the Great, Lower Clapton Road (entrance in 30 Powell Road) near Lea-Bridge Roundabout. Next meeting is on Thursday April 8th at 7.30 pm.

HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH

SMOKING

The debate between smokers and non-smokers was the topic at a recent meeting organised by the City and Hackney Community Health Council. Linda Seymour from ASH, the Action Group for Smoking and Health, concentrated on the rights of non-smokers and the effects on them of other people smoking. It appears that the majority of smokers want restrictions on smoking in public places. They don't like smokey atmospheres and they want incentives to smoke less. ASH is not pressing to have smoking banned completely, but they think that the choice should be left to the individual. However, they think that smoking should be seen as not the normal thing to do, and they would like to see better provision for non-smokers in public places and at work. They also encourage proprietors of cinemas, restaurants, pubs etc to consult their clientele about smoking. If they do this, they might find that the clientele want a non-smoking area and better ventilation.

A free "You smoke - I choke" badge is available from City and Hackney CHC, 210 Kingsland High Street, E2.

DENTISTS

A Hackney woman went for a dental check-up recently. The dentist accepted her as an NHS patient and she paid him £60 - the maximum charge to make her "dentally fit" under the NHS. He told her, however, that he could only do three crowns on her teeth under the NHS, and that she'd have to pay £100 to have the fourth done and a further £150 to have her dentures renewed - £310 in all! The woman didn't have £310 and sought advice. Fortunately for her she found out that if a dentist accepts you as a NHS patient then he or she is bound to make you dentally fit. The maximum charge for this has just gone up to £90 on 1 April - so that's the most you should pay your dentist.

WOMEN

Members of the Community Health Council's Women's Health Working Group met with the five local Consultant Obstetricians and the District Nursing Officer Designate in February.

The main item discussed was the way in which medical students are used and supervised in the local obstetric units

at Barts and the Mothers Hospitals, the amount of time given in their training to the emotional aspects of childbirth and the information given to women about their rights to be seen, examined and delivered by medical students.

The way in which women are told of their rights not to be seen by medical students will be reviewed. The Working Group was particularly concerned that when a student is allocated to a woman in labour the student should stay with the woman.

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Nuclear Power
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Wholefood, Health
Feminism
Anarchism
Fiction
Children's books

open: Mo - Sa 10-6, Thu 12-7

tube: finsbury pk.

WHAT'S ON

Music

CHATS PALACE

42/44 Brooksbys Walk E9
986 6714

Thurs 1 Berger School Music
Hall 7.30pm

Fri 2 Chat's Palace Music
Hall 8.00pm £1.50/75p unwaged

Sat 3 Jumble sale in aid
of East End Theatre Company
2.00 pm 10p

Sun 4 Lunchtime jazz -
Captain Bewildered 12.00

Free
Mon 5 Dart's night: Chats
Ladies v The Ship 9.00 pm

Tues 6 Under 17's club night
with Les Jusmatiques + disco
8.00 pm 25p

Wed 7 Mainstream Jazz with
the Ian Bellamy Quartet. Free

Thurs 8 Chats Cabaret Night
The Chip Shop Show + HADA
8.00 pm £1.50/75p unwaged

Fri 9 Two-Tone Theatre Co
+ The Way Home (a short
comedy) 8.00 pm £1.50/75p

unwaged

Sat 10 Stropo Cow Records
present Jam Today + Ova
8.00 pm £2.50/£2.00 unwaged

Sun 11 Lunchtime jazz with
surprise guest 12.00 Free

Tues 13 Hackney Marsh Fun
Festival meeting 7.30 pm

Wed 14 Ian Bellamy Quartet
8.00 pm Free

Thurs 15 Politics and The
Palace - a debate 8.00 pm

Fri 16 Music for Socialism
present The Ivory Coasters
plus Dalstoh Mount Girls

School Steel Band and special
Guest 8.00 pm £1.50/£1.00

unwaged

Sat 17 Chats Band Night
featuring Dave Bitelli's
Onward International and
Wild Bill's Disco £2.00/

£1.00 unwaged

Sun 18 Lunchtime jazz with
Captain Bewildered 12.00 Free

Wed 21 Ian Bellamy Quartet
8.00 pm Free

Thurs 22 A Cocktail Disco Dance
with funk and reggae sounds
and the most exotic cocktail
bar in the East End 8.00pm

£1.50/75p unwaged

Fri 23 Matinee performance of
Order! - a review by Chats
Palace kids 2.30 pm and 7.30pm

£1.50/75p unwaged

Sat 24 Order! 7.30pm

Sun 25 Lunchtime jazz with
surprise guest 12.00 Free

Wed 28 Ian Bellamy Quartet
8.00 pm Free

Thurs 29 Breakfast in America -
the highlight of the
month: 2 days of cabaret, dance,
song and sketches from HADA The
Arkestra and special guests
8.00pm £2.00/£1.00 unwaged

Sat

May 1 Mayday in Victoria Park
Chats allday festivities plus
many other entertainments
11.00 am - 9.00 pm

CROWN & CASTLE
600 Kingsland High St E8
254 3678

Downstairs - live Irish folk
music most nights

Wednesdays - Ambrose Donaghue's
disc show 8.00 pm

FOX'S WINE BAR
Stoke Newington High St N16
254 2709

Fri 2 Dick Phelps (sax) +
Rad Segrt (guitar) Equinox

Sat 3 David Hughes + Andy
Herbert (jazz guitar)

Sun 4 Lunchtime Chris Glass-
field (guitar) + P Bell (vibes)

Sun 4 Evening - 'phone for
details

Fri 9 'Phone for details

Sat 10 Decent and Decent Jo
Mydell (vocals) Terry Lee (piano)

Sun 11 Lunchtime - Chris Glass-
field (guitar) + P. Bell (vibes)

Sun 11 Evening - 'phone for
details

Fri 16 'Phone for details

Sat 17 Decent and Decent

Sun 18 Lunchtime - Chris Glass-
field (guitar) + P Bell (vibes)

Sun 18 Evening - 'phone for
details

Fri 23 Tony James (guitar) +
Jonathon Miller (piano)

Sat 24 Zizi in the Metro.
Mark and Elise (French horn,
piano accordion) - jazz

Sun 25 Lunchtime - Chris Glass-
field (guitar) + P. Bell (vibes)

Sun 25 Evening - 'phone for
details

Fri 30 'Phone for details

Free/Collection

HACKNEY MUSICIAN'S COLLECTIVE
Sir George Robey, Seven Sisters
Road (opp Rainbow)

Thurs 1 The Deviations

8 The Avengers

15 Walking Wounded +
Parkdown Jets

22 Damaged Youth + support

8.00pm Most bands free

HALF MOON THEATRE
213 Mile End Road E1
790 4000

Sun 2 Simon Limbrick - perc-
ussionist 8.00 pm

'Phone for prices

PEGASUS
109 Green Lanes N16
254 3678

Mon 5)

12) The Poor Relations £1.00

Mon 19)

26) Celadon Ceili Band £1.00

Tues 6)

27) The Deltas £1.00

Tues 13)

20) The 45s £1.00

Weds)

The Chip Shop Show +
guests £1.25

Thurs)

The Hank Wangford Band
£2.00

Fris)

Juice on the Loose
£1.50

Sats)

Big Chief £1.50

Sun 4)

The GB Blues Band with
Roots Jackson £1.25

Sun 18)

The Republic £1.25

All bands start 9.00 pm

PEMBURY ARMS
90 Amhurst Road E8
985 5288

Weds +

Suns)

Flying Saucers (50p)

Fri 2)

Black Cats

9)

'Phone for details

16)

Wild Eagles

23)

Dragons

30)

Thurs)

Disco 7.30 pm

Sats)

Disco 7.30 pm

Mons)

Video Films 7.30 pm

Tues)

Video Films 7.30 pm

Meetings

Hackney Action For Mentally
Handicapped People meets on
the second Thursday of every
month at The Huddleston Cen-
tre, St. James the Great,
Lower Clapton Road (entrance
in 30 Powell Rd) near Lea-
bridge Roundabout. Next
meeting Thurs April 8 at 7.30

April 22 Joint meeting of
Hackney CND and City and
Hackney CHC on "Medical Con-
sequences of Nuclear War."
210 Kingsland Rd, E2 at 7.30

Psychiatric Secure Unit:
Public meeting on the new
psychiatric unit proposed
for Hackney Hospital. Mon-
day 19 April at Homerton
Library, Homerton High Street,
E9 at 7.00

Cinema

ASTRA

119 Stoke Newington Rd N16
254 0046

Phone Cinema for details

KONAK

13/15 Stoke Newington Rd N16
254 2415

Phone Cinema for details

RIO

107 Kingsland High Street, E8
254 6677

April 4 - 17 : Dragon Slayer
1.30; 4.15 & 6.50

18 - 24 : Chariots of Fire
plus Gregory's Girl

Sun 18 Matinee, 2.30 : The
Travelling Players

Theatre

CROWN and CASTLE

600 Kingsland Rd, E8
254 3678

Sat 3 Flying Pickets and
Christine Ellerbeck

Fri 9 and Sat 10 : Closed

Fri 16 The 3 Courgettes-
vocal harmony group- and Silly
Boy Lemon

Sat 17 Oscar Mc Clennan-
poet plus Lee Cornes- comic
plus Tim Bat- juggler

Fri 23 The Joeys and Silly
Boy Lemon

Sat 24 Sitting Ducks- visual
musical theatre

Doors open 9pm, Show starts
10pm, Late bar and food, £1.50

HALF MOON

213 Mile End Road, E1
790 4000

Until Mon 19 In The Seventh
Circle by Charles Lewson. 8pm

£2.50, £1 students, free for
unwaged.

From Tues 27 WCPC by Nigel
Williams. Phone theatre for
details of times and prices.

PEGASUS

109 Green Lanes, N16
254 3678

See under music

THEATRE ROYAL

Gerry Raffles Sq, E15
534 0310

Thurs 1-Sat 3 The Emma Dance
Company. 8.00. £2 in advance
£2.50 on door. £1 OAPs.

From Fri 16 On Your Way, Riley
with Brian Murphy and Maureen
Lipmann. 8.00 from £1-5.

Sun 18 George Melly. 8.00
£1-5.

If you have not been
included on this page
and you want to take
advantage of our free
listings service then
send details of your
event to us as soon
as possible. Deadline
for the May issue of
HPP is Friday 23 April.

Hackney People's Press
47a Grayling Road,
London N.16.

MAYDAY FESTIVAL

East Enders may be suffer-
ing high employment, police
harrassment, social services
cuts and housing shortages,
but they are full of pride
of the community spirit which
exists in their area and
their rich cultural tradition.
The East End is and always
has been a cradle for many a
talent. East Enders know
it and they are neither slow
nor shy to tell the world
about it. So when the GLC
decided to mount seven
festivals as part of a London-
wide May Day celebration, the
East Enders vowed that their
festival at Victoria Park on
Saturday May 1st was going to
be the biggest, brightest,
best festival in the whole of
London.

Although suggested and fin-
anced by the GLC the organisers
stress that the festival is a
"local" activity. Local groups
and organisations provide the
administrative back up and
artists living and working in
the area will be given prefer-
ence to present and perform
their work. The festival is
seen as a vast shop-window for
the talent of the East End.
The festival's slogan is "East
End Best End" and it promises
to be a gigantic knees up with
fun for everyone.

The day has been loosely
divided in three parts:
children's entertainment from
11.00 am to 2.00 pm with
inflatable, puppet shows,
clowns, performing groups,
spectacle and fun. A vast in-
ternational village has been
planned with stalls and exhibits
of all kinds which will be
opened by a celebrity with
strong local connections at
2.00 pm. On offer there will
be articles, brick-a-brack,
food and drink from all over
the world (underlining the
multiracial flavour of the
festival), dancing, mime,
theatrical performances, camel
rides, and every kind of music
until sundown. Finally, in the
evening the most ambitious
project yet has been undertaken:
a huge, spectacular fireshow
involving literally a cast of
thousands entitled "A Carnival
of Fire".

The theme of the fireshow is
the contrast between the
affluence of the City of London
and the urban decay which effects
many of the neighbouring areas -
symbolised by a giant effigy
dominating a central site in
the park. Ten torch-lit
processions bearing painted
images converge on the site and
as the pageant reaches its
climax the effigy explodes with
fantastic visual effect symbol-
ising the destruction of the
evil elements in our society.
As the organisation of the
festival gets under way people's
enthusiasm is gathering momentum.
Everyone I've seen and talked to
is preparing for May Day con-
tributing something to the big
day from stuffing envelopes to
delivering leaflets on a bike.
They all emphasize that this
festival is a community activ-
ity. It is their festival, and
they are determined to see it
succeed. After all their pride
is at stake. The East End may
be a community under siege but
its spirit remains dynamic and
indomitable waiting to explode
on May Day.

Further information from:
Makki Marseilles 729 4443
Festival office:
Shoreditch Town Hall
380 Old Street
London EC1

PLAYWRITING

Hoxton Hall is looking for
scripts to include in its
Playwriting Festival. Anyone
living or working in the
Hoxton, Hackney, East London
area is invited to submit
a script, and contributions
from groups or schools will
also be considered.

The theme of the festival
is SEA (though scripts
entered on any subject will
be considered on an equal
basis). Hoxton Hall say,
"This topic is not meant
to be in the least limiting
and we are looking for a
range of plays; some very
central to the idea while
others are minutely
flavoured by it."

The best entries will
have their plays performed
and produced by profess-
ional theatre workers in
mid June 1982.

The closing date for
completed play-scripts
is Thursday 14th April
1982.

Hoxton Hall
128a Hoxton Street N1 6SH

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

The open editorial meeting
for the next issue of HACKNEY
PEOPLE'S PRESS will be held at
at Centreprise, 136 Kingsland
High St, E8, at 8pm on
Tuesday 13 April. If you
would like to help write or
produce the next issue then
please come along.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an
alternative non-profit making
monthly newspaper produced by
an open group of people who
live or work in Hackney. We
publish the paper because we
believe that Hackney needs
an alternative to the commer-
cial press to serve the real
interests of its people. We
have no editor and no share-
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HPP is your newspaper: any-
one who lives or works in
Hackney is welcome to come
and help us. All decisions
are made collectively.

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FARE FIGHT

- continued from front page

when it became obvious that no last minute turnaround could be expected from the Government.- The Campaign got off to a good start on the first day of the increases, Sunday 21 March. But although Won't Payers canvassed and made determined efforts not to pay (and put the wind up London Transport if the posters displayed at every station and on every bus are anything to go by), the majority of commuters on Monday complained but paid

Cuts in services have been deferred for four weeks but will have an increasingly devastating effect on schedules, making yet more people turn to alternative forms of transport. Even in the first week on the fare rises the effect on the number travelling by LT was noticeable.

Meanwhile, the intentions of Government become more obvious: LT is being slowly strangled until the point is reached when the Government can turn round and say "The GLC clearly cannot be trusted to look after LT; we will have to take it over". The reply to protests about the increases from the Department of Transport finishes with this sinister comment: "The House of Lords' judgement on the GLC's low fares

on Transport is also examining transport in London and the policy has raised a number of fundamental questions about transport planning which will need to be given careful consideration on the longer term. The Commons Select Committee Government will want to consider very carefully the recommendations they make."

Further action

A mass lobby of MPs is planned for 23 April. Make every effort to support it if you can. Hackney's Fare Fight campaign is still meeting every Tuesday evening at Shoreditch Town Hall to discuss further action. Anyone is welcome to come along to help.



After news of the decision had reached them, City Farm project workers held a demonstration on the South Millfields site. They were joined by 200 children and some of the animals they would like to have seen on the farm.

The HCF management committee has decided that the organisation can't continue any longer without a fixed base and that that, unless a suitable alternative site is found within three months, the project will have to close down. If you can offer help in avoiding this outcome, please contact Hackney City Farm at 12, Leaside Road E5 tel. no. 806 1367.

Ernie Greenwood

FARM FIGHTS TO FILL NEED

The Department of the Environment has turned down the idea of a city farm on part of South Millfields. This is six months after a public enquiry heard that the Hackney City Farm's proposals had behind them over 140 letters of support and 2,300 signatures on a petition circulated amongst local residents.

Proposals rejected

It was in 1978 that the idea of establishing a city farm in Hackney was first put forward. Two

years ago, the project received charitable status and successfully applied to the Borough Council for planning permission to develop the South Millfields site (next to the transformer station besides the River Lea). The reason why the Department of the Environment ultimately rejected this location was that it would result in a loss of common land. At the enquiry, the opposition to Hackney City Farm was led by the numerically small Hackney Society.

Their report on "Parks & Open Spaces in Hackney" concluded that City Farm project would unjustifiably reduce and be out of place in the otherwise open 'green lung' of South Millfields.

HCF project chairperson Janet Goldman reacted angrily at the DOE's decision: "Many kids in the borough just don't have the opportunity to travel out to the countryside. Our project is their best hope of being able to observe and handle farm animals at close hand."

Meanwhile, HCF is continuing to run its very successful "Understanding City Farms" course at Hackney Adult Education Institute. We asked primary school teacher Janet Farrell, who is on the course, for her comments: "The sessions so far have shown us all the practical value of a city farm. The importance of having such a facility in an inner urban area can't be overemphasised. Unless the farm is set up, what should be a very significant part of every local child's education must of necessity remain neglected."

ADVERTISEMENT

EAST END

BEST END

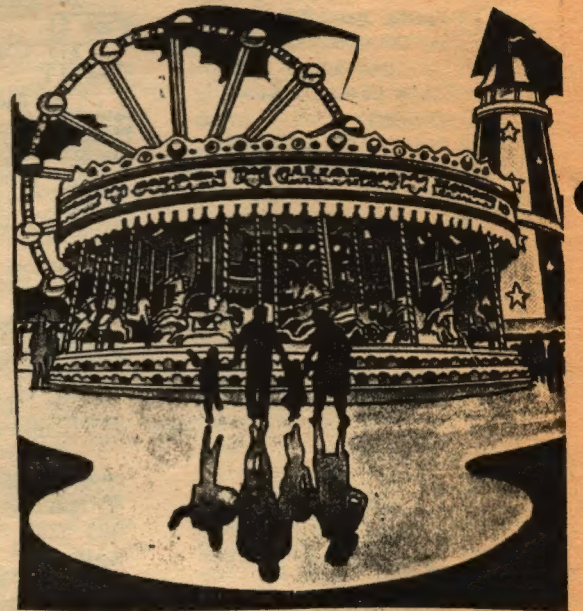


MAY DAY FESTIVAL

SAT MAY 1st

at

VICTORIA PARK



11 am - 2 pm

CHILDRENS ENTERTAINMENT

Inflatables
puppet shows
clowns
childrens theatre
boat/donkey rides
balloon races
competitions
prizes
spectacle
fun

2 pm - 8 pm

MAIN EVENTS

International village
Market stalls
antiques,
brick-a-brack
side shows
dance
mime
drama
camel rides
food (from all over the world)
drink (including real ale)
music, music, music

8.30 pm - 11 pm

A CARNIVAL OF FIRE

This is a huge, spectacular extravaganza using music, song, dance, drama, and ritual, careful choreography and precise timing. Ten torch-lit processions converge towards an enormous effigy dominating a central point in the park. As the pageant reaches its climax the effigy explodes to a great visual effect symbolising the destruction of the evil forces in our society.

The show too 'explodes' with imagination and energy.

DON'T FORGET IT! YOU'LL REGRET IT!